

affairs if they could help it. They would appoint to public positions anybody before they would have a Catholic.

### The Treatment of the National Teachers

In the course of an address at the Irish National Teachers' Congress in Bangor Mr. Joseph Devlin, M.P., said:—The present position of the national school teachers in Ireland with regard to salaries and the method of paying them, and with regard to pensions and civil rights, is a disgrace to any civilised country, and constitutes a grave indictment of the manner in which the educational affairs of Ireland have been administered. I venture to say that there is not a parallel, in Europe or out of it, for a system which places the teachers on a lower level than the policemen. And yet that is the system which exists in Ireland, and against which all our protests have hitherto been in vain. There is no necessity for me to go into details as to proof. The facts are perfectly familiar to the delegates at this Congress. Where, except in Ireland, would it be possible to propose a pension of £6 10s 8d a year for a teacher who had broken down through ill-health after twenty-five years of faithful service? Take, again, the question of salaries. The salary paid to an Irish male teacher, fully qualified, begins at £56 a year, and of a female teacher at £44 a year. According to Mr. Lloyd George, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that is less than is paid to an English navy. So that, under the present system in Ireland, the teacher is worse paid than an English navy; and, when he becomes unfit for work, after twenty-five years' service, he is awarded the magnificent pension of 4d a day, to which he himself has been compelled to contribute. But there is something more than that to be noted. The English navy, at any rate, is sure of his wages at the end of the week. He can pay cash for his household requirements and be independent. But the Irish teacher, instead of being paid his wages weekly, is only paid quarterly. Only four times in the year has he the satisfaction of handling the money which he earns. Unless he has some other source of income, he has to live continually on credit—a thing loathsome to any man of independent spirit—and he loses all the advantages of the navy, who can purchase for cash wherever he likes to go.

### The Population Still Decreasing

The census of Ireland shows a population of 4,381,951, being a decrease of 76,824 since 1901.

### Life-boats on the Irish Coast

Around the Irish coast there are 36 lifeboats, two being motor-boats (costing nearly £3000 each), and the total expenditure on the boats, boathouse, and slipways reaches £82,000, which the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, supported entirely by voluntary contributions, has spent on the Irish coast. In 1910 58 lives were saved by the brave Irishmen who are ever ready to answer the call, and for the first three months of this year 26 lives have been saved, making a total of 2698 lives to the credit of the Irish lifeboats. The cost of maintaining the Irish boats, rewards to lifeboatmen, compensation for injury when in the boat, and provision for the widows and orphans of the brave Irish lifeboatmen, exceed £3500 a year, and as the amount collected in Ireland does not reach £1500, the institution in London has to send over to Ireland £2000 a year to enable the Irish Committees to carry on the great work of life-saving. Over £22,000 has been paid in rewards to Irish lifeboatmen, and £3500 has been granted to the widows and orphans of Irish lifeboatmen, and if this valuable work is to be continued in the most efficient way, it is essential that the people of Ireland should increase their interest in the work which is being done by the 1000 Irish heroes who man the boats.

Among all the forms of employment which engage man's attention, there are few which require more ability to conduct successfully than farming.

By the s.s. Loongana there arrived in Launceston, on the 19th ult., the Very Rev. Father Field, M.S.H., of the central house of the Sacred Heart Fathers, Rome. Father Field is visiting the different missions of the Order in Australia.

'Tis only a mother knows the pain  
Of hearing coughs again and again;  
And children's coughs cause trouble enough,  
Unless they swallow the proper stuff.  
Now Wood's Great Peppermint Cure's the thing  
Which into the nursery health can bring,  
So give your children a dose each night,  
'Twill keep them well, and strong, and bright.

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TELEGRAMS.....'SLIGO, DUNEDIN.'

## People We Hear About

One-fourth of the Bishops in the United States have been consecrated by Cardinal Gibbons, about two thousand priests have been ordained by him.

Mrs. Marion F. Crawford, widow of the novelist, lives at her villa near Rome, where she is often visited by readers and admirers of Mr. Crawford's works.

Mr. Trefle, honorary Minister in charge of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture, at twelve years of age stood behind the plough, and afterwards became a champion ploughman with both double and treble furrow ploughs.

The *Life of Cardinal Vaughan*, published by Messrs. Burns and Oates, has had the seal set upon its triumph by the very warm approval of his Holiness the Pope. Pius X. has written its author, Mr. Snead-Cox, a letter of warmest congratulation in his own hand, and congratulated him in a private audience. The following is a translation of the letter: 'Sincerely congratulating our well-beloved son, John Snead-Cox, upon his admirable work upon the life and labors of the much-loved Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster, and earnestly hoping that, for the spread of good example, it may be translated into the languages of other nations, we most affectionately bestow upon him, in token of our favor and goodwill, the Apostolic Benediction.—PIUS X., Pope. From the Vatican on the 5th day of April, 1911.'

News was cabled recently to the effect that the ex-Empress Eugenie's health is causing anxiety. On May 5 the venerable lady celebrated the 85th year of her age. Born in Spain, won by a president, married to an emperor, she established in Paris a court whose brilliancy has not been equalled. But she was compelled to escape from the Tuilleries in disguise, on the fatal night of the downfall of the Empire just as the mob broke in the other side of the buildings. With one attendant and the Austrian and Italian ambassadors, she found her way to the street. An urchin recognised her—she was betrayed by her beauty. Fearful, the ambassadors thrust her into a carriage and drove to find a friendly shelter. Exhausted with the search and with terror, Eugenie remembered at last that Dr. Evans, the American dentist, lived near. She threw herself on his protection, and was escorted by him in safety to the English shore.

Canada lost one of her great men on April 14 by the death of Sir Henri Elzéar Taschereau, the representative of the Dominion upon the Judicial Committee of the Imperial Privy Council, and ex-Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. For three hundred years the Taschereau family have been prominent in the public life of Canada, either in politics, law, or the Church. During all this period the Taschereaus possessed seigniorial rights in Quebec, and doubtless owing to this cause, and to the knowledge which he acquired from his grandfather and father, both of whom were judges, Sir Henri was recognised as the greatest authority on the seigniorial system in Canada. Sir Henry Taschereau was the oldest Canadian Judge, his first appointment being made in 1871. He was a man of wide reading and courtly bearing. The late Cardinal Taschereau was his cousin.

It will come as news to many people that of the several colonial Prime Ministers now in London in connection with the Coronation three are Catholics—Sir Wilfrid Laurier (Canada), Sir J. G. Ward (New Zealand), and Sir Edward P. Morris (Newfoundland). Sir Wilfrid Laurier has been close on fifteen years Prime Minister of Canada. French-Irish in descent, he is in religion a staunch Catholic. It is impossible to be in his society a few hours without realising the presence of one of the great masters of statecraft. He possesses a unique and striking personality. He has been described as a picture-gallery all in himself. He is like some splendid portrait that has walked down from the walls of a mediaeval French chateau. Imagine a very tall, a very slight, almost a bony figure; imagine a face exactly the same—that is to say, long, narrow, and bony—and you will have some idea of what Sir Wilfrid Laurier is like in the flesh. There is not a spare ounce on that body, which, nevertheless, seems as alert, active, and enduring as that of some deer-hound. The face seems to concentrate itself in the mouth, which is large—as is the mouth usually of the orator—mobile, slightly pursed. The face is clean shaven, which also gives a certain look at once of academic distinction and of eighteenth century character. You could take him, if you did not know him, for a great scientific scholar, for a professor, or you might fancy that he was a brilliant wit and encyclopaedist—one of that band that prepared the French Revolution. You could take him for many things, but never for anything that was not intellectual, distinguished, and well born.

If any of our lady readers should desire a pair of the famous 'Wellington' gloves, all they need do is to forward half-a-crown to Te Aro House, Wellington, when the goods will be sent post free....

For Children's Hacking Cough at night,  
Woods' Great Peppermint Cure, 1s 6d, 2s 6d.